

In this kit you will find:

- Details on the structure of the event.
- Tips for a pleasant and meaningful event.

Thank you for choosing to host Zikaron BaSalon event this year and congratulations on joining a community of people who choose to commemorate the Holocaust in an intimate and meaningful way.

Zikaron BaSalon events mostly occur on the eve of the Israeli Holocaust Memorial Day and on various other dates around the world. These events take place in tens of thousands of homes and communities in Israel and abroad. This year, it will not only take place at home in small groups (or just with your own family) but also online through Zoom.

Anyone can host a Zikaron BaSalon event. The choice to host an event is strongly linked to the sense of responsibility for shaping the way the Holocaust is commemorated both as a community and as an individual. It is easy and simple, and we are here to guide and help you along the way.

This new kit has been provided for you during this challenging time and we thank you again for choosing to keep the tradition going. We recommend hosting Zikaron BaSalon through Zoom and inviting 10 – 20 people to join you.

Please note that a personal Zoom account limits you to 40 minutes. We suggest that you ask around and see if you know anyone who has a business account that enables unlimited calls.

Structure of the Event

We recommend that the duration of the entire event will be around an hour.

Past: Testimony, Present: Expression, Future: Discussion

Testimony

Filmed or personal, told by a Holocaust survivor, a child of one or an expert in the field

15 – 20 min

Expression

Play music, read a poem, or any other way participants would like to express their feelings through a creative lens

10-15 min

Discussion

A facilitated discussion that focuses on the memory of the Holocaust and its significance in our lives

15-20 min

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The number of guests at the event depends on the preference and ability of the host. From past experience the best number falls somewhere between 15 and 40 and more. The idea is to allow for varied conversations where people share different opinions whilst holding on to the intimate atmosphere.

We suggest basing the guest list on your personal social network yet expanding this circle as well. In order to experience an interesting and thought-provoking event, it is important to create a forum with varied voices. You can always extend the invitation to larger social circles or include a few different groups together.

One of the main advantages of Zoom is the ability to invite a large number of participants than you could have to to your private salon. Zoom enables you to break into small discussion groups, so if you choose to invite 40+ people, you can all share the same testimony and music but split for the discussion part.

The discussion can be about a specific topic or can be as broad as you would like it to be.

We suggest preparing a few questions in advance in order to make sure the conversation flows.

Additionally, through social media you can make your event open to the general public.

Tips for a meaningful and pleasant experience:

- Make sure to try using the Zoom platform before the event itself, in order to feel comfortable running an event on it. Start the event by asking every person to introduce himself or herself that will make people more comfortable. Ask the participants to leave their camera on and their audio on mute. Proceed with reading a poem or give a few minutes of introduction to get everyone engaged and ready to participate.
- It is important to start with a hopeful message, especially in lieu of resent events.
- Share with the participants the structure of the event so everyone knows what to look forward to. As long as Holocaust survivors are still alive, we strongly encourage hosts to reach out to their communities in

order to find and empower survivors to share their stories. Having said that, we understand that hosting a survivor on Zoom is extremely challenging.

- If you know survivors in your community or have a way to communicate with them, ask if they have a recorded testimony or if they are able to record one and send it to you. If not, look for a 10 – 15 min testimony online or go to our website.
- Make sure to watch the testimony beforehand in order to assure it is suited for your audience. Another option is to look for children and grandchildren of survivors who will be willing to share their family stories. Inviting a Holocaust expert who would be willing to share their knowledge with participants can also be a solution. It is very important to note that the success of an event does not depend on whether you host a speaker or not. In the second part of the event the guests are invited to express themselves through art, mainly music. This part is important as it

enables participants to transition from a receptive role into an active and sharing one, which culminates in the discussion part. In order to further engage your participants in the experience, we suggest you invite them to bring a reading, instruments, a song, a poem or other similar contribution.

- Make sure you know who is playing live music and who is reading a poem in advance and create a schedule. Don't forget to share the schedule with them.
- Live music works wonderfully, ask the singer/player to have a microphone and to ensure their sound system is working properly. If there's live music, put the lyrics of the songs on the screen or send them to the participants. The songs and poems should be relatable and in line with the event. We recommended between 2-3 songs. On our website you will find resources such as YouTube playlists with songs, complete with chords and lyrics, so that your participants can join in.

Discussion guide

In the third and final part of the event, participants are invited to have an open and stimulating discussion.

We suggest that this conversation be led by the host, however anyone can lead it. The leader's role is to simply guide the discussion and ensure a positive, respectful and flowing conversation.

1. Unlike a discussion that is happening in a living room, a Zoom discussion should be in small groups.
2. We strongly recommend you prepper a few question in advance. Due to recent events, we are creating new discussion kits, which can be, find on our website.
3. Before beginning the discussion, ask the participants if there is something they would like to share.
4. Remember there is no need for the conversation to end with a single decision or conclusion. It is suggested and encouraged that the conversations end with thoughts and questions that each person can take home and continue to grapple with.
5. Start with "light" questions and move on to more personal, "harder" questions. Encourage everyone to speak at least once but remember that not everyone feels comfortable enough to do so.
6. If this is the first time you are hosting, we suggest opening the event with the question "Why are you here?" in order to start a conversation regarding the idea behind this gathering on Holocaust Memorial Eve/Day.
7. We encourage finishing the conversation with an open-ended question, a quote or poem that leaves the participants thinking.

**Wishing you the best of luck and health to us all,
The Zikaron BaSalon team.**